

August 8, 2002

**Public Notice for Section 401 Water Quality Certification
Mad River Sand & Gravel, Sand and Gravel Extraction Operations**

Humboldt County

On August 1, 2002, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mad River Sand & Gravel requesting a California Code of Regulations Water Quality Certification for gravel extraction operations and a temporary bridge crossing in the Mad River, Humboldt County. The application was deemed complete on August 5, 2002. This project has potential to cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with the Mad River, Hydrologic Unit No. 115.00.

The proposed project is located south of Highway 299, mile 13.5 of the Mad River. The project involves extraction of up to 200,000 cubic yards of sand and gravel from the channel of the Mad River. The project entails temporary disturbance of 0 to 30 acres of river gravel bar. Extraction methods include skimming the material from the bar using front end loaders and dump trucks for removal. All affects of gravel extraction are considered temporary since extraction sites are replenished annually by winter flows.

Mitigation measures include limiting the number of haul roads providing access to the channel extraction areas and minimizing the need for stream crossings when practicable. Vertical and horizontal offsets of the extraction area will be maintained to prevent incidental fill. Annual extraction plans are created to compliment natural bar topography, to minimize the potential for geomorphologic changes associated with extraction activities.

Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Sections 3830-3869. Comments on this project should be submitted to Roy O'Connor at oonr@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov, within 21 days of the posting of this notice.